9th November 1965]

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not have the information. Cars are allotted to the various companies for private allocation on the basis of registration and payment of advance of Rs. 2,000, etc. I do not have information with regard to that allocation. So far as the allocation to the Government is concerned, we are informed that there has been a general reduction for everybody.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Apart from the reduction of the quota, is there any proposal to reduce the manufacture by 50 per cent on account of the foreign exchange difficulty ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is the information which I also heard but we have no official information.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Government look into the matter and see that whatever the number of cars allotted to the State, they are equally divided between the private and the special quotas?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This Government have no responsibility in the matter of allocation to the private people. The allocation is made by the Central Government in pursuance of an order. So far as this Government is concerned, it gets a special quota and that is distributed according to the pattern set down in the statement.

Rice scarcity

*154 *Q.*—SRI N. V. NATARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state the measures taken by the Government to prevent a recurrence of rice scarcity in November and December this year ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The State Government has formulated a scheme of procurement for procuring paddy and rice. A buffer stock has been kept in the different districts to meet any exigencies during the lean months of November and December this year.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are the Government aware that in several of the fair price shops in the mofussil, regular supplies are not made? What is the reason for it?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not have such complaints.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Do the State Government directly procure the rice or through the Food Corporation?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : As far as this State is concerned, we are buying all our requirements through our own agents.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Are not this Government receiving any quota from the Food Corporation?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : As far as our State is concerned, the Food Corporation acts as our agent for bringing stocks

from outside the State and also for moving our allotment to Kerala.

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : May I know, Sir, whether there are to be check-posts to check movements from taluk to taluk or from district to district?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Generally the district borders are watched. But sometimes during the procurement the Collectors find it necessary to have check-posts even to check movements from taluk to taluk.

Sri K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : May I know this year's position of the Kuruvai crop compared to that of last year?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : In the Thanjavur delta it is slightly better than last year.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கடாசலம் : உணவுப்பொருள்கள், குறிப்பாக ராகி போன்றவைகள், இந்த மாநிலத்திலிருந்து வேறு மாநிலங்களுக்கு ரயில் மூலமாக புக்செய்து அனுப்பப்படுவது அமைச்சருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : இப்போதிருக்கிற நிலையில் அப்படிப் புக் செய்து அனுப்ப முடியாது.

Prices of foodgrains

*155 Q.—Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sudden spurt in the price of foodgrains like toor dhall, Bengalgram, blackgram and also the non-availability of the same;

(b) the reasons for the same and the percentage of the increase; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the availability of the above foodgrains at reasonable prices?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : (a) to (c) The information is given in the paper* placed on the table of the House.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, in the information furnished in the statement it is stated that scarcity was caused because the movement was restricted and there was shortfall in production. Generally we used to get our requirements of toor dhall and other grains from the other States. Why have not the Government taken immediate steps to procure the stuff and maintain regular supplies? The Government themselves have admitted that the prices have gone up by hundred per cent. Today the prices have gone up by nearly 200 per cent. What is the reason for the increase in price in spite of the fact that the Government have taken over the responsibility for supplying these?

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* Printed as Appendix III on page 115.